AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A user interface to facilitate a communication between a user and an associate comprising:

a user icon representing a user; ~~and~~

~~an~~ a plurality of associate icon~~s~~ representing ~~an~~ a plurality of respective associate~~s~~, wherein the position of ~~the~~ each associate icon relative to the user icon illustrates a relationship between the user and the associate;

a positioning tool enabling the user to position each associate icon independently within the user interface; and

a communication tool enabling the user to compose a communication and enabling the user to transmit the communication to at least one of the associates, wherein the communication tool is to be displayed upon selecting at least one of the corresponding associate icons.

2.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a distance between the user icon and ~~the~~ each associate icon represents an importance of ~~the~~ each relationship.

3.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ each associate icon is capable of being repositioned by the user via an input device.

4.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ each associate

icon is a digital image of the corresponding associate.

5.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein

the communication tool includes a voice communication tool to transmit a voice

communication from the user to the at least one of the associate~~s upon selecting the~~

~~associate icon~~.

6.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein the selecting the at

least one of the corresponding associate icon_s_ includes applying a single-click to the at

least one of the corresponding associate icon_s_ via an input device.

7.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 5, wherein the voice

communication tool includes an associate icon section to display an image of the at

least one of the associate_s_.

8.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 5, wherein the voice

communication tool includes a communication section to visualize previous

communications between the user and the at least one of the associate_s_.

9.   (canceled)

10.   (currently amended)   The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:

a transmission component to transmit digital content to ~~the~~ an associate upon

dropping the digital content onto the corresponding associate icon.

11.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the user is capable of

selectively indicating an availability to ~~communication to the~~ communicate with an

associate via the user interface.

12.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the relative position

of ~~the~~ each associate icon to the user icon varies automatically based on a perceived

change in the corresponding relationship.

13.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of

the associate icons is to perform an action upon a happening of an event.

14.   (currently amended) The user interface of claim 13, wherein the action includes

animating the at least one of the associate icons upon receiving a communication from

the associate associated with the at least one of the associate icons.

15.   (original) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the user icon is to perform an

action upon a happening of an event.

16.   (currently amended) A method for visualizing interpersonal relationships

comprising:

displaying a user icon representing a user on a user interface; ~~and~~

displaying one or more associate icons on the user interface, wherein the one or more associate icons represent one or more associates, wherein the one or more associate icons are positioned radially about the user icon, wherein each of the one or more associate icons are positioned on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the one or more associates; and

automatically repositioning one of the associate icons radially relative to the user icon based on extent of contact between the user and the associate.

17.   (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ position<u>s</u> of the associate icons relative to the user icon represent<u>s</u> ~~the~~ importance <u>to the user</u> of each relationship between the user and each associate.

18.   (original) The method of claim 16, wherein each associate icon is capable of being repositioned by the user.

19.   (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

activating a voice communication tool to transmit a voice communication between the user and one of the associates upon selecting ~~the one of~~ the associate icon<u>s representing the one of the associates</u>.

20.   (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the selecting includes performing a single click on ~~the one of~~ the associate icons representing the one of the associates via an input device.

21.   (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

initiating a transmission of digital content to one of the associates upon dropping the digital content onto ~~one of~~ the associate icons representing the one of the associates.

22.   (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

attaching the digital content to a communication when the communication is initiated within a predetermined amount of time of initiating the transmission of the digital content; and

transmitting the communication with the attached digital content.

23.   (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

enabling a composition of a communication to one of the associates upon selecting the associate icon ~~related to~~ representing the one of the associates.

24.   (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the communication is a voice communication.

25.   (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the voice communication includes background music.

26.   (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the one or more associate icons are to perform an action upon a happening of an event.

27.   (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the user icon is to perform an action upon a happening of an event.

28.   (original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

rearranging the position of the one or more associate icons based on a perceived change in the relationship between the user and each of the associates associated with each of the associate icons.

29.   (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the perceived change in the relationship is based on a number of communications between the user and the associate associated with each of the one or more associate icons.

30.   (currently amended)   A method of exchanging profile information comprising:

displaying a first user interface graphically presenting strength of a relationship between a user and an associate based on extent of contact between the user and the associate;

receiving a signal indicating dropping of a user icon on a the first user interface onto a first associate icon, the user icon representing a the user, the first associate icon representing an the associate;

in response to the signal, automatically sending user profile information associated with the user icon to the associate; and, including

displaying a second associate icon associated with the user to be displayed on a second user interface associated with the associate.

31.   (currently amended)   A method of exchanging profile information comprising:

displaying a first user interface graphically presenting strengths of individual relationships between a user and each of a first and second associate based on extent of contact between the user and each associate;

receiving a signal indicating dropping of a first associate icon on a the first user interface onto a second associate icon on the first user interface, the first associate icon representing a the first associate, the second associate icon representing a the second associate;

in response to the signal, automatically sending associate profile information associated with the first associate icon to the second associate; and including

displaying a third associate icon associated with the first associate to be displayed on a second user interface associated with the first second associate.

32.   (currently amended) A method of exchanging profile information comprising:

displaying a first user interface graphically presenting strengths of individual relationships between a user and each of a first and second associate based on extent of contact between the user and each associate;

receiving a first signal indicating dropping of a first associate icon on a the first user interface onto an introduction area, the first associate icon representing a the first associate, the first associate icon including first associate information associated with the first associate;

receiving a second signal indicating dropping of a second associate icon on the first user interface onto the introduction area, the second associate icon representing a the second associate, the second associate icon including second associate profile information associated with the second associate;

in response to the second signal, automatically sending the a first associate profile information associated with the first associate to the second associate; and

automatically sending the a second associate profile information associated with the second associate to the first associate;

displaying the first associate profile information including a third associate icon associated with the first associate to be displayed on a second user interface associated with the second associate; and,

displaying the second associate profile information including a fourth associate icon associated with the second associate to be displayed on a third user interface associated with the first associate.

33.   (canceled)

34.   (currently amended) A user interface comprising:

an associate information section having associate information associated with an

associate and a digital image of the associate; and

an associate communications section being capable of facilitating a

communication by a user and the associate, including recording of a voice message by

the user and transmitting of the voice message to the associate.

35.   (original) The user interface of claim 34, wherein the associate communication

section facilitates electronic mail communications between the user and the associate.

36.   (canceled)

37.   (original) The user interface of claim 34, wherein the associate communication

section facilitates the listening of a voice mail communication from the associate.

38.   (original) The user interface of claim 34, wherein the associate communication

section facilitates instant messaging communications between the user and the

associate.

39.   (original) The user interface of claim 34, wherein the associate communication

section facilitates network chat communications between the user and the associate.

40.   (original) The user interface of claim 34, wherein the digital image of the associate is to exhibit a characteristic to visualize a relationship between the user and the associate.

41.   (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the extent of the contact between the user and the associate is based on at least one of: a number of times the user and associate have communicated within a specific time frame, a length of a composed or received text communication between the user and the associate, an amount of time the user and associate have spent communicating, a length of time the user and the associate have known each other, a number of urgent communications received by the user from the associate within a time frame, and a geographic distance between the user and the associate.

42.   (new) The method of claim 16, wherein a magnitude of the repositioning is dependent on a type of the relationship between the user and the associate.

43.   (new) The method of claim 30, wherein graphically presenting the strength of the relationship includes at least one of: enlarging the first associate icon when the strength of the relationship increases, repositioning the first associate icon closer to the user icon when the strength of the relationship increases, and changing a color of the first associate icon when the strength of the relationship decreases.